

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **March 1, 2004**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Baentsch (U.S. Patent No. 6,536,671).

The present invention is IC card which receives power from a power supply or radio wave. When power is interrupted, a ferroelectric capacitor in FeRAM (4) is used to provide a voltage in order to complete a writing operation. As illustrated in figure 4 of the present application, a power supply monitor method is used to determine if the power voltage is in an operating area, an operation waiting area, and an operation forbidden area. When the voltage level changes from the operating area to the operation waiting area, the currently executing process is placed in a wait state without terminating the process. When the voltage level changes from the operation waiting area to the operation-forbidden area, the process is terminated. When the voltage level changes from the operation-forbidden area to the operating area, the process is restarted in a waiting state.

Baentsch describes an IC card which, as indicated in Figure 2A, when a power failure is sensed, the RAM contents and registers are stored in persistent memory and a power-failure bit is set. As indicated in Figure 2B, when power is restored, if the power-failure bit is set, then the RAM contents and registers are restored from persistent memory and normal operation resumes.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, when the voltage level in Baentsch is restored the process is not restarted in a waiting state but, as indicated in column 8, lines 14-22, once the RAM memory and registers are restored the process begins normal execution (box 43). However, claim 8 of the present application requires restarting the process in a wait state and not directly into normal operation as required by Baentsch.

Therefore, claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A power-supply monitor method, comprising the steps of: monitoring a voltage level of a power supply so as to make a judgment as to whether or not the voltage level is in an operating area showing an operable voltage range, in an operation-forbidden area showing an operation-forbidden voltage range or in an operation waiting area showing an operation waiting voltage range; when the voltage level is changed from the operating area into the operation waiting area, bringing the on-executing process into the waiting state without ending the process; when the voltage level is changed from the operation waiting area into the operation-forbidden area, ending the process; and when the voltage level is changed from the operation waiting area into the operating area, restarting the process in a waiting state.”
(Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 USC §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Baentsch (U.S. Patent No. 6,536,671) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

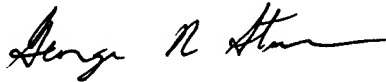
In view of the accompanying remarks, claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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